

TREDYFFRIN HISTORIC PRESERVATION TRUST

# TRUST NEWS

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2

FALL/WINTER 2008

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

2008

### FIRST HALF RESULTS

Rebuilding the Jones Long Barn has taken far more time than any of us realized. The campaign to *Rebuild the Barn*, however, will soon be in full swing!

Our highly dedicated and enthusiastic core of volunteers - some whom may be your neighbors - are getting prepared to undertake the task at hand: raising approximately \$350,000 to rebuild the barn. Watch for our Capital Campaign to get underway shortly. Of course, the Trust hasn't been waiting around! The first half of 2008 has been

- ★ *In the Mood* spring event raises nearly \$20,000!
- ★ Successful Spring Lecture Series featuring Abigail Adams
- ★ \$30,000 grant award from Chester County Conference & Visitors Bureau

busy with terrific results: This spring the Trust retained *Frens & Frens Restoration Architects* of West Chester to develop site, engineering and architectural plans for the Jones Log Barn. Plans should be completed this summer! Frens & Frens is one of the region's most experienced restoration firms - we look forward to working with principal architect Dale Frens until the last big log is in place!

We developed a marketing brochure (right) and booklet. Look for these brochures in public places in the coming months!

Our next big event for the Trust is the upcoming *4th Annual Historic House Tour*. This highly successful event will be held on September 20. I hope to see you on the tour. You can find ticket information on our website at



*Bob Wise*  
Chairman

TREDYFFRIN HISTORIC PRESERVATION TRUST

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REBUILD THE BARN

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JONES LOG BARN REGIONAL EDUCATION HISTORY CENTER

It Takes a Community to Build a Barn!

WWW.TREDYFFRINHISTORY.ORG  
Tel: 610.644.6759

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### IN THE MOOD...

*JAZZ ON THE PORCH & DANCIN' IN THE BARN*

Co-Chairs Pattye Benson and Judy DiFilippo wish to thank everyone who helped to make *In the Mood - Jazz on the Porch & Dancin' in the Barn* a successful event on **Friday, April 4, 2008**. *In the Mood* was a truly memorable evening and much thanks needs to be given to the many volunteers who helped. Also, we would like to thank the generous sponsors and all those who purchased tickets and attended the event. The evening netted nearly \$20,000 which will benefit the rebuilding effort of the Jones Log Barn. Based on the success of *In the Mood*, the Trust is looking forward to making it a yearly event each spring!



### 4TH ANNUAL HISTORIC HOUSE TOUR

Saturday, September 20  
1:00 - 5:00 PM  
*Rain or Shine*

Ticket information:  
610.644.6759

Purchase Online at:  
[www.tredyffrinhistory.org](http://www.tredyffrinhistory.org)

Tickets: \$35

### ANNOUNCING TRUST PHOTOGRAPHER

We are excited to announce that local Chesterbrook resident, **Allen Barol** has joined the Trust as a volunteer to document all our Trust events. Look for him and his camera at upcoming events - his photos will be featured on our website. *Thank you Allen!*



## LOCAL HISTORY NOTES.... FROM HERB FRY

### TREDYFFRIN'S AMATEUR ASTRONOMER

Harry Barlow Rumrill was born in Philadelphia in 1867 but raised and educated in Haddonfield, New Jersey. By vocation he was an accountant for the Pennsylvania Railroad where he spent his entire 49-yr career. By avocation he was an amateur astronomer. He was approaching middle age when he moved to Tredyffrin from Bryn Mawr in 1911 with his wife and 2 children to make his home in an old stone house on Conestoga Road. The house, had as early as 1847 served briefly as a meeting place when Paoli Lodge, No. 290, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was instituted there.

In early years, Rumrill was a dedicated music student, and he acquired excellent skills as an organist and musician. He was first exposed to astronomy in high school. However, the science was just a casual curiosity until 1904 when he bought a book that raised his level of interest, and he began assembling the components of a modest telescope.

Soon, he crossed paths with the Rev. Alden Walker Quimby, pastor of Berwyn Methodist Church, at a lecture on astronomy, where he became noted for his regularly published series of daily observations of the sun, covering 32 years.

Rumrill and Quimby formed a close friendship.

Before Rev. Quimby died in 1922, he asked Rumrill to continue the sun-spot work. An analysis of Quimby's observations shows that he averaged 335 observations a year. To keep the daily schedule going, Rumrill adopted the practice of observing the sun early each morning before work. When he retired in 1932, he planned and constructed in his back yard on Conestoga Road a 16-ft square astronomical observatory in which he mounted his telescope with 4-in. lens. He continued his observations up to the day of his death in 1951.

Harry Rumrill did an extensive amount of writing to popularize astronomy. From 1932, the year he retired, until 1940 he contributed 21 articles to the Mutual Magazine published by the Pennsylvania RR. From 1947-1949 he wrote 33 articles for Upper Main Line News. He also submitted material to Popular Astronomy magazine, one such article summarizing the results of his own and Rev. Quimby's observations. In it he attempted some analysis of the whole time series. A tribute to Rumrill appeared in Popular Astronomy shortly after his death.

In this age of space exploration, our community can be justly proud of Mr. Rumrill's legacy left for those

### IMPORTANCE OF A TRUST MEMBERSHIP

Each new Trust member adds strength to our organization, and together we provide a strong collective voice on behalf of historic preservation. Our success depends on the support and involvement of many people and organizations. Your membership contribution or charitable gift will be used to continue and increase our historic preservation programs and services in the Tredyffrin community.

#### Yearly membership term is September 1- August 31.

Please use the enclosed envelope for your membership contribution or online at: [www.tredyffrinhistory.org](http://www.tredyffrinhistory.org). The Trust is a registered non-profit 501(c)3 organization and your contribution is fully tax-deductible as the law permits.



### British Colonial Tea Biscuits

- 1 cup butter
- 1 cup milk
- 4 eggs
- 3 cups flour
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 ½ tsp. baking soda
- 2 tsp. cream of tarter

Mix all ingredients together. Make into a thin loan and bake in a flat, greased pan, break into chunks.

Serve warm with butter and honey.

Oven: 350 F

Time: 30 minutes (check after 20 min.)

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*"...in 1932, he planned and constructed in his back yard on Conestoga Road a 16-ft square astronomical observatory in which he mounted his telescope with 4-in. lens."*

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HELP CONTINUE HISTORIC PRESERVATION WITH THE PURCHASE OF A TRUST MEMBERSHIP

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HOPE YOU WILL TRY OUR FEATURED COLONIAL RECIPE

*BRITISH COLONIAL  
TEA BISCUITS*

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## TRUST BOARD OF DIRECTORS ADDS 4 NEW MEMBERS

The Trust is excited to announce four recent additions to the Trust Board of Directors. Volunteering their time and expertise on the Trust Board is Debbie Bookstaber, Polly Hagan, Pearl Nudy and Bob Purdy.

Berwyn resident Debbie Bookstaber brings her professional expertise from the technology field to the Trust. Newly elected Tredyffrin/Easttown School Board member, Debbie will assist with educational opportunities. Great Valley historic homeowner, Polly Hagan is involved with the Grange, FLITE and is the Secretary/Treasurer of the Great Valley Association and will be helping with our programming and lecture series. Pearl Nudy of Strafford joins the Board as our much

needed Recording Secretary. Pearl has lived in the Tredyffrin/Easttown area her entire life and is active with the Veterans Memorial Association and was featured in the historical documentary, *Tredyffrin...the First 300 Years*. Rounding out our newly elected Board members is Devon resident Bob Purdy. Bob is an architect and has been involved in the construction industry for nearly 40 years. Bob will lend his expertise to the Trust's Jones Log Barn building and construction committee.

We welcome these new members to the Trust Board and thank them for their commitment to historic preservation and our community.

## FROM THE - TREASURER

In May 2008 the Trust was one of two recipients of major grants awarded by the Chester County Conference & Visitors Bureau. The \$30,000 grant is to be used for capital projects. In our case, we will use it to fund the architectural and engineering services required to prepare design and construction documents for the Jones Log Barn rebuilding. The grant is a 'matching grant' meaning the Trust must match dollar for dollar the monies we receive from Chester County Conference & Visitors Bureau.

This is the second grant the Trust has received from the Chester County Conference & Visitors Bureau. In 2005 we also received a matching grant that enabled us to retain the architectural firm Frens & Frens to provide Phase 1 services including historical research and preliminary schematic design.

The Trust is grateful to the Chester County Conference & Visitors Bureau for their continued support of the Trust and its mission to rebuild the Jones Log Barn. It demonstrates the significance of the Barn and the Bureau's confidence in our plan to develop a Regional Education History Center.

## FALL 2008 LECTURE SERIES



### Meet Martha Washington

Presented by Dr. Nancy Loane

Wednesday, October 15

Refreshments: 7:00 PM

Lecture: 7:30 PM

Tickets: \$15

Duportail House

297 Adams Drive.

Chesterbrook, PA 19087

Info: 610.687.2722

### GREAT HOUSES OF PHILADELPHIA: CHESTNUT HILL AND THE WISSAHICKON VALLEY

#### Lecture & Book Signing\*

Presented by Mr. James Garrison

Wednesday, November 13

Refreshments: 7:00 PM

Lecture: 7:30 PM

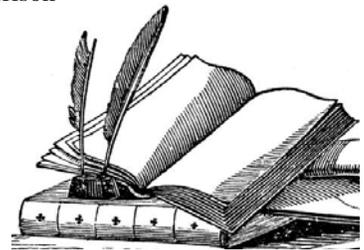
Tickets: \$15

Duportail House

297 Adams Drive

Chesterbrook, PA 19087

Info: 610.687.2722



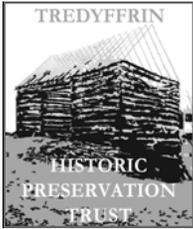
\*Copies of the newly released book will be available for purchase and signing by author James Garrison. *Great Holiday Gift!*

## Tredyffrin Tidbits FOR SUMMER PARKS & RECREATION CAMPERS



For the second summer, the Trust offered Tredyffrin Tidbits, bits of local history, to the campers attending the Tredyffrin Parks and Recreation Summer Program at Teegarden Park.

Dressed in colonial garb, Trust Board member MJ Ormsbee completely captivated the campers with her local history stories, including the local origins of Conestoga wagons and the unique purpose and build of Conestoga horses; the campers even worked together as teams of six Conestoga horses and their drivers. Mrs. Ormsbee's stories of local inns and taverns along Lancaster Pike activated young minds that are being treated to the richness of our local history. The Trust is proud to help educate our children.



Tredyffrin Historic  
Preservation Trust  
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Devon, PA 19333

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E-mail: [info@tredyffrinhistory.org](mailto:info@tredyffrinhistory.org)  
Website: [www.tredyffrinhistory.org](http://www.tredyffrinhistory.org)

**OFFICERS**

**Robert J. Wise Jr.**  
Chairman

**Pattye Benson**  
President / Secretary

**Trish Kreek**  
Treasurer

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Debbie Bookstaber  
Judy DiFilippo  
Polly Hagan  
Glenna Keene  
Gretchen Kiernan  
Colleen McCauley  
Pearl Nudy  
Robert O'Leary  
MJ Ormsbee  
Bob Purdy  
John Sacharok

**DIRECTOR EMERITUS**

C. Herbert Fry

## TREDYFFRIN HISTORIC PRESERVATION TRUST

Please Visit Newly Designed Website: [www.tredyffrinhistory.org](http://www.tredyffrinhistory.org)



**4TH ANNUAL  
HISTORIC HOUSE TOUR  
Saturday, September 20  
1:00 - 5:00 PM  
\$35/ticket  
Don't Miss this Opportunity!**

Old houses tell wonderful stories, and the houses of Tredyffrin Township have many tales to tell. On September 20, 2008 the Tredyffrin Historic Preservation Trust's 4th Annual Historic House Tour will highlight tales of eight historic houses that span 4 centuries. We have Historic House Tour sponsorship opportunities available for \$250 which includes 2 tickets for the Tour (value \$70). Great way for individuals and/or business to show their support of historic preservation in the community!

**Limited Tickets — Order Yours Now!**

[www.tredyffrinhistory.org](http://www.tredyffrinhistory.org)

***TREDYFFRIN...  
THE FIRST 300 YEARS  
Historical Documentary DVD  
\$20***

There are copies still available of the historical documentary, *Tredyffrin...The First 300 Years* available for purchase at \$20/copy on our website, [www.tredyffrinhistory.org](http://www.tredyffrinhistory.org)

The documentary was recently featured in the 2008 West Chester Film Festival. Wonderful holiday gift for family, friends, neighbors - a great stocking stuffer, hostess gift, the ideas are endless! The documentary is \$20 and your purchase is tax-deductible and will help to build the Jones Log Barn as a regional education history center.